them having presented over the counter and payment obtained fraudulently. The preliminary investigations made by the Reserve Bank of India reveal that the amount involved in the fraud is Rs. 12,30,300/- comprising 12,303 pieces of Rs. 100/- denomination notes. In this connection, fifteen employees of Reserve Bank of India have been suspended.

The existing procedures are reasonably sound. The above incident has occurred apparently due to complicity of certain persons in circumventing the rules and negligence of a few others in supervising the operations. The Reserve Bank of India has impressed on all its offices to follow the existing checks and precautions meticulously. The Reserve Bank of India has also constituted a special team to go round its offices for surprise checks so that the prescribed procedures are strictly followed.

कपास का उत्पादन लक्ष्य

2456. **श्री मीर्जा ईर्शादबेग** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वर्ष के लिए प्रत्येक राज्य द्वारा कपास के उत्पादन का कितना कितना लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है ;

(ख) कपड़ा मिलों की वार्षिक कपास आवश्यकता कितनी-कितनी निर्धारित की गई है ; और

(ग) कपास के आयात-निर्यात के संबंध में क्या निर्णय लिया गया है ; यदि कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है, तो कब तक ले लिए जाने की संभावना है और निर्णय लेने में बिलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रफीक आलम) : (क) चालू रुई वर्ष के दौरान प्रत्येक राज्य के लिए रुई उत्पादन हेतु कोई विशेष लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किया गया है ।

(ख) रुई सलाहकार बोर्ड ने चालू रुई वर्ष के दौरान मिल में रुई की खपत के लिए 95 लाख गांठों का अनुमान लगाया है ।

(ग) रुई के संबंध में आयात तथा निर्यात के निर्णय कुल उपलब्धता घरेलू खपत के लिए आवश्यकताओं, घरेलू तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कीमत रुपयों, आदि जैसे सभी संबंधित मुद्दों पर ध्यानपूर्वक विचार करने के बाद लिए जाते है । वर्तमान समय में चल रही रुई स्थिति से न तो रुई के आयात की और न निर्यात की आवश्यकता है ।

2457. [Transferred to the 5th December, 1987]

Release of relief funds to States

2458. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ad hoc and unconstitutional methods in release of Government relief funds by Government are causing concern to several States; and

(b) whether the Finance Commission is expected to make guidelines for release of such funds and if so, what are the reasons for referring this matter to the Planning Commission as reported in the Indian Express dated 17th October, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) No ad hoc and unconstitutional methods in release of relief have been adopted by Government of India. The policy relating to financing of expenditure incurred by State Governments for relief of natural calamities is based on the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission, which is applicable uniformly to all the States.

(b) Under its terms of reference, the Ninth Finance Commission is required to review the policy and arrangements in regard to financing of

relief expenditure by States affected by natural calamities and suggest such modifications as it considers appropriate in the existing arrangements for the period 1989-90 to 1994-95. However, so far as the current year is concerned, Planning Commission and Department of Rural Development examined the matter relating to relaxation of guidelines under N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. so that more funds may be made available for taking up additional schemes in the flood affected areas of the States of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir considering severity of floods.

Foreign exchange expenses by Indian Express on Medical Treatment of Shrimati Ganeriwal

2459. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a sum of Rs. 6,81,312 and Rs. 1,28,292.00 were debited to M/s. Indian Express (M) Private Limited, Madras, towards foreign exchange and air ticket as medical expenses of Shrimati Ganeriwal who met with a car accident on 10th March, 1985;

(b) if so, what is the legitimacy of these expenses;

(c) whether the company has taken insurance claim amount and credited it to the Company; and

(d) what are the details of these expenses and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Article captioned "Goenka's foreign funds"

2460. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in Blitz of the 12th September, 1987 under the heading "Goenka's foreign funds" to the effect that the Chairman of Indian Express Group of Papers had arranged a Swiss Bank guarantee for £.3,45,000 in favour of Linotype of London which represents 15 per cent of the contract price;

(b) if so, whether any Indian residing in India is permitted to obtain guarantee for his business from a foreign bank abroad;

(c) whether it is a fact that no Swiss Bank could give a guarantee unless the man concerned is its client; and

(d) if so, whether Shri R. N. Goenka has any Swiss Bank account or made any FERA violation and what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Enforcement Directorate has initiated investigations in respect of the reported arrangements of Swiss bank guarantee by Indian Express Group of Papers in favour of Linotype of London.

Filling of income tax returns by Chairman, Indian Express Group

2461. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2354